

IN THE ABSTRACT

Please amend the abstract to read as follows:

The invention provides a thermal tolerant (thermostable) cellulase, AviIII, that is a member of the glycoside hydrolase (GH) family. ~~This invention further discloses this cellulase as AviIII. AviIII has been~~ was isolated and characterized from Acidothermus cellulolyticus and, like many cellulases, the disclosed polypeptide and/or its derivatives may be useful for the conversion of biomass into biofuels and chemicals. ~~The invention further provides recombinant forms of the identified AviIII. Methods of making and using AviIII polypeptides, including fusions, variants, and derivatives, are also disclosed.~~